

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Investigation Into
Implementation of Assembly Bill 970 Regarding
the Identification of Electric Transmission and
Distribution Constraints, Actions to Resolve
Those Constraints, and Related Matters Affecting
the Reliability of Electric Supply.

Investigation 00-11-001
(Filed November 2, 2000)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
CONCERNING CONFIDENTIALITY OF COST DATA
IN MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS**

The purpose of this ruling is to address the confidentiality of transmission project cost data submitted by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) and Southern California Edison Company, collectively referred to as "the utilities," in their monthly status reports filed pursuant to Decision 01-03-077.

By ruling dated April 2, 2002, I directed the utilities to work with Energy Division to develop a consistent tabular format for summarizing the status of each transmission project, including updated project cost information. The utilities are now submitting the status reports each month in the format developed with Energy Division, but do not include project-specific cost data in the public version served on the parties. With the filing of its August and

September status reports, SDG&E requests leave to file all cost information under seal.¹

I agree with SDG&E that project-specific transmission cost data should be held confidential to avoid competitive harm when the utilities solicit bids for these projects. However, I am not persuaded that the public version should exclude all cost information. I believe that the public should have access to information regarding the general expected cost range for each transmission project (e.g. under \$1 million, \$1-\$10 million, \$10-\$50 million, etc.) in order to be able to assess the relative impact of that project on utility costs and rates. In consultation with the Assigned Commissioner's office, Energy Division should work further with the utilities to develop a consistent set of cost ranges that will be presented in the public versions of each utility's status report. I am confident that Energy Division can develop ranges that will serve the public's need for relevant information on each transmission project, while addressing the utilities' concerns over competitive harm.

Beginning with the status reports filed at the beginning of December, 2002, the utilities shall file and serve a public version that includes the cost range for each transmission project. The utilities shall update and file their best available cost estimate for each specific project under seal pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 583, and serve that information on the assigned Administrative Law Judge, the Assigned Commissioner's Office and Brian Schumacher, Supervisor of the Engineering Section of the Energy Division.

¹ See Motion of SDG&E For Leave To File Confidential Material Under Seal, August 1, 2002 and September 3, 2002.

In addition, the utilities shall expeditiously furnish other information requested by Commission staff pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 583, such as transmission maps, transmission and substation single line diagrams, description of Remedial Action Schemes, description of operating procedures, the output of power flow studies used for transmission planning and other information which may, in the opinion of Commission staff, be necessary for the understanding of the functioning of the utility.

IT IS SO RULED.

Dated October 11, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ANGELA K. MINKIN for

Meg Gottstein

Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Concerning Confidentiality of Cost Data in Monthly Status Reports on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated October 11, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JEANNIE CHANG

Jeannie Chang

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.

